

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original claim): A method for recovering native protein from a sample comprising protein aggregates, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a sample comprising protein aggregates;
- b. subjecting the sample of step (a) to elevated hydrostatic pressure, whereby a portion of protein dissociates from said protein aggregates; and
- c. returning the sample of step (b) to ambient pressure, whereby a portion of the dissociated protein refolds to native protein.

Claim 2 (original claim): The method of claim 1, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostic~~ hydrostatic pressure is insufficient to fully denature said protein.

Claim 4 (original claim): The method of claim 1, wherein said sample further comprises a chaotropic agent in an amount which is insufficient to denature said native protein at ambient pressure.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostic~~ hydrostatic pressure is insufficient to fully denature said protein.

Claim 6 (original claim): The method of claim 5, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.

Claim 7 (original claim): A method for recovering native protein from a sample comprising protein aggregates, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a sample comprising protein aggregates, wherein said protein aggregates are comprised of protein folding intermediates of a native protein;
- b. subjecting the sample of step (a) to elevated hydrostatic pressure, whereby a portion of said protein folding intermediates dissociate from said protein aggregates; and
- c. returning the sample of step (b) to ambient pressure, whereby a portion of the dissociated protein folding intermediates refold to native protein.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostatic~~ hydrostatic pressure is insufficient to fully denature said protein folding intermediates.

Claim 9 (original claim): The method of claim 7, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.

Claim 10 (original claim): The method of claim 7, wherein said sample further comprises a chaotropic agent in an amount which is insufficient to denature said native protein at ambient pressure.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostatic~~ hydrostatic pressure is insufficient to fully denature said protein folding intermediates.

Claim 12 (original claim): The method of claim 11, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for recovering native protein from a sample comprising protein aggregates, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a sample comprising protein aggregates, wherein said protein aggregates are comprised of aggregation prone protein folding intermediates of a native protein;

- b. subjecting said sample to a level of hydrostatic pressure sufficient to dissociate at least a portion of said aggregation prone protein folding intermediates contained in said protein aggregates; and
- c. returning the sample of step (b) to ambient pressure, whereby a portion of the dissociated aggregation prone protein folding intermediates refold to native protein.

Claim 14 (withdrawn – currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostatic~~ hydrostatic pressure is below the minimum level of hydrostatic pressure required to fully denature said aggregation prone protein folding intermediates.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said sample further comprises a chaotropic agent in an amount which is insufficient to denature said native protein at ambient pressure.

Claim 17 (withdrawn – currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said elevated ~~hydrostatic~~ hydrostatic pressure is below the minimum level of hydrostatic pressure required to fully denature said aggregation prone protein folding intermediates.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein said protein aggregates are inclusion bodies.